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1950 a
Year of
Discovery

★
— *Pacific
Discovery*



ARE YOU WARMING UP for your annual bout with The Christmas List?

Every Academy Member, we feel sure, has at least one friend or relative who would also enjoy *Pacific Discovery*. And of all such friends and relatives of Members there must surely be many who would value membership in the Academy, as well.

Your Academy is growing rapidly these days. You can see it in the new buildings going up and in the increasing membership lists. The new plant gives needed space for exhibits, collections, and research laboratories, but the real strength of the Academy is in people—the working team of Trustees, Council, Staff, and *Members*.

Academy Members are not just so many dollars annually in dues, but are, above all, *people* who are so much interested in what the Academy does and stands for that they want to be a part of it, to join in a common effort, to increase and disseminate knowledge of man and his environment.

If there is someone with whom you would like to share your privilege of Academy Membership, or your enjoyment of *Pacific Discovery*, as a gift from you for a whole year, please fill out, tear off, and mail the form below. We will send an appropriate gift announcement in your name, if you so indicate. If you wish to make your gift to more than one person, please list additional names on another piece of paper.

CALIFORNIA ACADEMY OF SCIENCES
San Francisco 18, California

Please send my gift of *Pacific Discovery* ☐ Regular Membership ☐ (check one) for one year, to

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ADDRESS.....

CITY.....ZONE.....STATE.....

I enclose check for \$..... (PD only, \$3.00 Regular Membership, \$5.00)

Enclosed find list of other names Send gift announcement in my name

ACADEMY NEWS LETTER

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Courtesy Standard Oil Company of California

LITTLE ORPHAN GEORGIE
(See page 2)

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October Announcement

THE REGULAR OCTOBER MEETING of the California Academy of Sciences will be held in North American Hall, West Wing of the Academy buildings in Golden Gate Park, on Wednesday evening, October 19, 1949, at 8 o'clock. Dr. Sunder Lal Hora, Director of the Zoölogical Survey of India, will give an illustrated lecture entitled

FISH FARMING IN THE FAR EAST

The idea of growing fish as a farm or garden crop has some currency in the United States, and has even inspired some literature, both popular and more or less technical. But whereas pisciculture is, with us, sporadic—something a few hobbyists or farmers with a little spare time and space (or a natural pond on the back forty) indulge in for pleasure or profit—in the Orient you raise fish or you don't eat. At least such is very nearly the case with many of the Indians and Chinese about whom Dr. Hora will speak. For millions of Oriental people, fish farming is an earnest business, the produce ranking with rice and other staples.

Our distinguished guest, who is one of the foremost aquatic biologists of the Orient, will describe the pond culture of fishes and its significance in the peasant economy of various countries, with allusion to the difference in objectives between American and Southeast Asiatic pursuit of this activity. He will tell how ponds are constructed; how fish seeds and seedlings are procured and distributed; of care, fertilization, stocking, and harvesting; of fish associations. He will describe Paddy-cum-Fish culture and the correlation between pond culture and agricultural practices, and he will talk of the possibilities of extending fish farming, outlining a program for a country wishing to take it up on a large, or economic, scale.

Dr. Hora's lecture will open a subject new to most of us. The public is cordially invited.

NURSERY DEPARTMENT REPORT

LAST MONTH'S *News Letter* announced the arrival of George, orphaned month-old leopard seal, via Standard Oil tanker from Puget Sound. We had met George, some weeks ago, in the food room at Steinhart Aquarium where he seemed to be most at home, toddling around on his hands. We fell hard for his big brown eyes, and he seemed to enjoy drying his whiskers on our trouser-cuffs.

Going back for another call, we found George had moved, bag and baggage, to Tank 12, and apparently felt real grown up having an address like other people. His former nursery, the food room with its associations of liquid baby diet (no milk, because mama seals have no sugar in theirs), is now merely the fish market to George. But if George could just possibly be said to feel himself risen well above his orphan beginnings, he has with princely gesture made his former nurse, Mr. Norval J. ("Tom") Greene, purveyor—by app't, of course—to His Highness, of whitefish. Which is a jolly good thing for Tom Greene, fishmonger, eh?—I s'y! Why, Prince Georgie is good for h'eight pounds (of fish, that is) a d'y, 'e is that! First thing you know, the rest of the Aquarium staff will be calling Mr. Greene—uh, Keeper of the Privy Seal. But we judged him quite satisfied with being Keeper of the food room Spick and Span and George's devoted guardian.

George has one complaint with his new quarters—no southern exposure. So on every occasional day when the fog stays outside the three mile limit, George enjoys a sun bath outdoors with Tom in attendance. All in all, we suspect this particular leopard seal of having been born a Reilly.

EVER BEEN MIDWIFE TO A RATTLESNAKE? Someone on night duty at the Aquarium, Friday, September 23, must have had a few nervous moments when our 31-inch, 7-rattle female Pacific rattlesnake became ten times a mother. If you have any idea that newborn rattlers are cute, innocent babes, be disabused. They may be cute, if you are very fond of rattlesnakes to start with, but they are full of venom and vinegar from the word go. "Don't call me tyke. Call me Spike, see?" One precocious brattlesnake even tried to bite the gentle Mr. Culleton right through the glass side of his bassinet. They don't start life playing with rattles, either. They are born with "pre-buttons," acquire a button with the first shedding (this litter all changed from dipes to rompers between the third and sixth days after birth), and one rattle with each shedding thereafter. By the way, the number of rattles is no clue to age. A rattlesnake may shed several times a year depending on temperature and other conditions governing its rate of growth. The rattler is one of several American snakes born viviparously.

APPLICATIONS FOR MEMBERSHIP

NOTICE is hereby given to all Corporate Members that the Council at its October meeting approved the applications of Mr. Edward C. Bland, Mr. Edward W. Dalton, Mr. Earl M. Hall, Dr. Ralph Hawkins, Mr. Eric C. Jacobsen, Mrs. Clyde C. Kennedy, Mrs. Alexander Lake, Mr. C. E. Lombardi, Mr. Judson E. Vandevere, and Dr. J. Dan Webster for REGULAR MEMBERSHIP; of George Burman, Beverly Carson, Michael Lagios, Barbara Sabin, Gerrie L. Sweeney, and Anita Washington for STUDENT MEMBERSHIP; and of the Sacramento State College for ASSOCIATE MEMBERSHIP in the California Academy of Sciences. If no objection to the election of these applicants be received at the office of the Academy within two weeks after October 14, they will be considered elected.